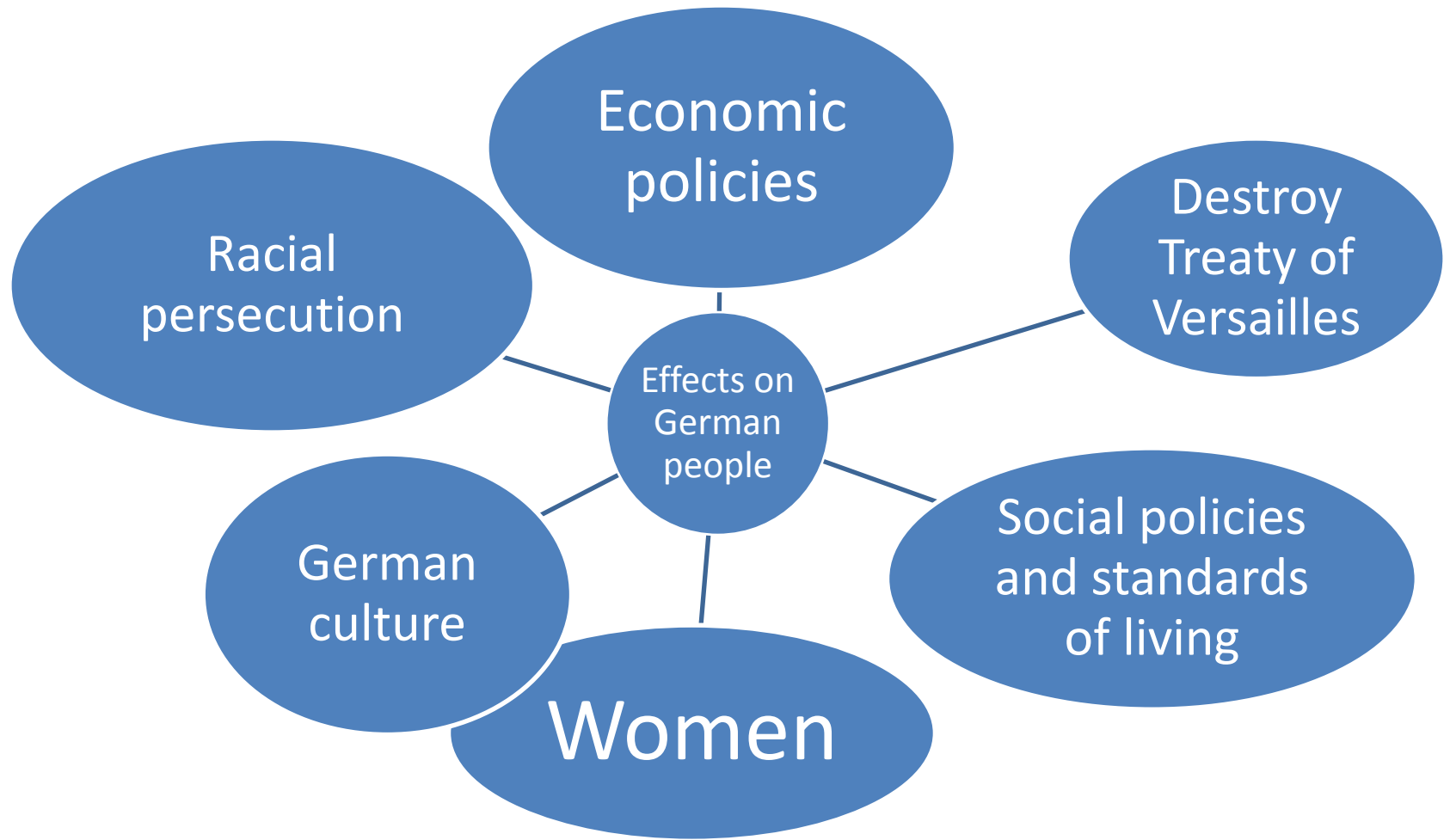


To what extent did Germans benefit
from Nazi rule in the 1930's?



Economic policies

- 1933 Jan German economy in ruins.
- 16 million undemployed
- Nazis plowed huge sums of public money into job creation schemes. E.g. road building.
- 1933-38 7000 km of autobahn built
- Forestry jobs
- Water projects
- Hospitals and schools built
- Labour Front had 44,500 paid officials by 1939

Treaty of Versailles & economic effects

- Rearmament programme began immediately
- 1933 100,000 in army compared to 1.4 million in 1939.
- Military equipment e.g. aircraft & tanks built en masse
- Remilitarisation effected other industries e.g. coal & chemical production doubled 1933-39.
- Oil, iron & steel trebled
- Iron ore mining increased by 500%

Reliable data?

- Huge fall in unemployment from 6 million to zero came from Nazi figures.
- Non Germans, Jews & women were not included in these figures.

Autarky

- Hitler aimed to make Germany self sufficient
- Couldn't afford to import lots of raw materials
- Almost succeeded but still relied on Swedish iron ore imports & some food still imported.
- 4 year plan introduced in 1936 began to move Germany towards self sufficiency
- Only way Germany could truly achieve self sufficiency was to take over other countries to get the raw materials it needed = **LEBENSRUAM**

Social policies and standards of living

- Many believed Nazi rule improved lives.
- Unemployment fell
- Few were starving
- Wages increased slightly as did the working week
- Small businesses did well – large Jewish businesses had been closed down by Nazis reducing competition
- Other large businesses could make huge profits out of massive construction programme.

Conscription

- Not only in to army but from July 1935 all 18-25 year old men had to sign up for 6 months practical work.
- No wages paid, just pocket money.
- Not popular on whole but like by unemployed

Strength through Joy

- Part of German Labour Front
- Provided leisure activities to keep workers happy.
- Holidays, cruises, theatre trips, sporting events & weekend trips offered at reduced cost.
- Hitler wanted Germans to have their own cars = the Volkswagen 'people's car' designed in 1938 but very few were made to demands of war production.

Public opinion

- Mid 1930's many Germans pleased with Nazis policies.
- Unemployment falling
- National pride restored – Olympic Games
- Troops in Rhineland made Germans feel secure
- Anschluss in 1938 dramatically improved national pride.

Women

- Nazis had 'traditional view of women'
- 'Kinder, Kirche, Kuche (children, church and kitchen)
- Used propaganda to persuade women of role
- Pure Aryan race needed but birth rate falling
- Incentives to have more kids: interest free loans for newly weds if wife gave up work. Got to keep 25% on birth of each child.
- Hitler's mothers birthday, yearly medal ceremony for mothers with most children
- Racially approved mother's matched to SS men
- Women in responsible positions sacked e.g. 1000's doctor's & civil servants
- Number of women teachers gradually reduced
- Dress code: hair in plaits or bun; not dyed or permed; no make-up or trousers
- Dieting discouraged

Downsides

- Priority to rearmament meant shortages of raw materials for house building.
- Young couples often struggled to afford their first house.
- Late 1930's more women did paid work due to shortage of labour.
- Women who took the marriage loan after 1937 were allowed to work.

German Culture

- Restricted through censorship and propaganda
- Modern art = degenerate.
- Plays and films checked suitable for Nazis theme
- American music banned
- Work of Jewish writers banned
- Arts stifled

- Some scientists and artists emigrated
- E.g. Albert Einstein who helped develop the A-bomb for USA

- 1933 benefits appeared to outweigh disadvantages
- Living standards recovered
- National pride increased
- Many workers (including ex communist supporters) were doing well as long as they followed Nazis rules
- Negatives: only became more obvious once Nazis achieved totalitarian control

Racial persecution

- Jews seen as inferior
- 500,000 Jews in Germany in 1933 less than 1% of population.
- Many in important positions & jobs e.g. bankers, lawyers & Dr.s made Hitler think Jews were in control

Action

- April '33 1 day boycott of shops
- 1934 increased anti Jewish propaganda
- Sept 1935 Nuremburg Laws:
 - a) Banned marriages between Jews and Germans
 - b) Took away German citizenship and rights of Jews
 - c) 1936 Olympics – lull on persecution
 - d) Sept 1937 – many Jewish businesses seized
 - e) June 1938 – Jewish Dr, dentists and lawyers not allowed to treat Aryans
 - f) October 1938 – Jews had J printed in passport
 - g) Nov 1938 Kristallnacht

Krystalnacht

- French Jew shot German minister in Paris
- 8,000 Jewish shops, homes & synagogues attacked
- 100 jews killed
- 20,000 sent to concentration camps
- Jews fined for damage to German property 1 billion marks
- 1939 Jews offically encouraged to emmigrate
- 1939 30,000 Jewish men and boys sent to concentration camps

'undesirable groups'

- Gypsies
- Tramps
- Beggars all sent to concentration camps
- Physical & mental disabilities – 1933
compulsory sterilisation (epileptics, blind, deaf, depressed etc...)
- Euthanasia 'mercy killing' by lethal injection caused an outcry when it was first introduced.